

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new): A baton comprising:

at least an outer tube section and an inner tube section telescopically arranged within one another and adapted to interlock in an extended and retracted position;

a radially adjustable locking crown arranged in an end region of the inner tube section, the locking crown adapted to be retracted into the outer tube section; and

a circumferential locking groove arranged on an inside region of the outer tube section, wherein:

the locking crown is composed of a number of parts formed as sectors of a circle and adapted to be joined to form a ring, the locking crown protrudes over the end region of the inner tube section with a locking bead, and an axially adjustable expanding cone for the locking crown is fixed on the end of a positioning rod and is arranged in the inner tube section opposite of the circumferential locking groove.

Claim 12 (new): The baton according to claim 11, wherein the locking crown is fixed in a circumferential holding groove of the inner tube section with a holding bead that has a smaller diameter than the locking bead.

Claim 13 (new): The baton according to claim 11, wherein the positioning rod is connected to a push-button under the influence of a spring and arranged in an end cap screwed into the outer tube section adapted to be easily accessed and actuated.

Claim 14 (new): The baton according to claim 11, wherein the inner tube section is provided with an end cap on its extension side, wherein the end cap is adapted to be engaged with a locking extension of the positioning rod that protrudes over the expanding cone in the retracted position.

Claim 15 (new): The baton according to claim 11, wherein another tube end section comprising a correspondingly reduced diameter and an end cap is arranged in the inner tube section, the another tube end section provided with a locking crown of correspondingly reduced diameter in a retractable end region, the inner tube section contains a circumferential locking groove, and another opposite expanding cone is arranged to the locking groove and carried by a rod adapted to be supported in the positioning rod in an extendible fashion and extends through the expanding cone.

Claim 16 (new): The baton according to claim 11, wherein the locking crown comprises a one piece structure constructed of a material with limited elasticity.

Claim 17 (new): The baton according to claim 12, wherein both sides of the locking crown are provided with equidistant slots that divide the locking and holding beads.

Claim 18 (new): The baton according to claim 11, wherein sliding rings are arranged between the outer tube section and the inner tube section in corresponding receptacle grooves.

Claim 19 (new): The baton according to claim 11, wherein fixing or holding tension is generated with the aid of a clamping ring constructed of a material adapted to be inserted into the locking crown.

Claim 20 (new):        The baton according to claim 11, wherein at least one ventilation bore is provided in an end cap screwed into the outer tube section for pressure compensation purposes.

Claim 21 (new):        The baton according to claim 16, wherein the material is polyamide.